

Orton

PARISH PLAN 2005-2010



Executive summary	2	Crime & Policing	9
Introduction	3	Healthcare	10
The Orton Parish Plan	4	Elderly	10
Summary	4	Community Facilities	10
Environment	5	Parish Council	11
Young People	6	Footpaths	13
Public Highways	7	What happens next?	13
School	7	Acknowledgements	14
Conservation & Future Development	8	Orton Parish Action Plan	15

Background

In 1989, the Parish Council conducted the Orton Parish Appraisal. Prompted by a need to detect the interest for a low cost housing project, it also gave parishioners the chance to put forward their ideas and expectations for the parish.

The Parish Plan is a result of the Rural White Paper – Our Countryside: the future. Due to the success of village appraisals it is hoped that the Parish Plan will provide a blue print to further develop our community and plan for years and generations to come.

In February 2004, a group of people met to form a Parish Plan Steering Committee

with a view to completing a Parish Plan on behalf of the Parish Council. The committee formed represented all sections of the community.

The objective of the plan is to give everyone in the parish the chance to put forward what they want for their communities and point out what they feel needs to be changed. By working through the action plan produced as a result of the Parish Plan, people can make their parish what they want it to be. The Parish Plan will be a tool which can be used to gain funding for projects and which will influence local bodies for the future benefit of everyone.

Executive Summary

Orton

Park View, Linden Gate
Baldwinholme
Carlisle CA5 6LS

Dear Parishioners

07/06/05

It is now more than 18 months since the Parish Council decided to go ahead with a Parish Plan for Orton Parish and set up a steering committee consisting of volunteers from all sections of the community. It has been a large undertaking with considerable amount of work sitting through countless meetings, setting out questions relevant to Orton Parish, distributing the questionnaires to every household and then collecting them in again, then analysing the results which are the views expressed by the residents of the parish. This project would not have been possible without the help and funding from Cumbria County Council and the Countryside Agency also for the help and the support in the beginning of Mrs. Claire Rankin and latterly Mrs. Judith Derbyshire, Rural Support Officers to whom we are greatly indebted.

The report as you would expect threw up many conflicting and varied ideas – all of them welcome. The most pleasing to me was the question on young people when 6 people volunteered to help with a youth club. We can get a paid youth leader from the County Council but the law requires a % of adults per number of young people so we will be following this up and hope for more names to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the steering committee for their hard work and dedication in preparing this report, especially Ellen Whitfield our secretary without whose enthusiasm and effort this report would not have been completed. Also none of this would have been possible without the cooperation of you the parishioners I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for taking the time to fill in the questionnaires.

This plan when finally completed and has been adopted by the Parish Council will help to obtain grants and maximum financial aid and will form the basis for Parish Policy making for years to come.

Once again thanks to one and all!

Yours Faithfully,

William Little

Chairman; Orton Parish Council and Parish Plan Steering Committee

The parish of Orton is part of the Carlisle District, situated 6 miles to the west of the City of Carlisle and borders with the District of Allerdale.

It is a rural parish with the main settlement of Great Orton surrounded by several small hamlets namely; Little Orton, Stonerigg, Bow, Sceughmire, Orton Park, Newby Cross, Orton Grange, Baldwinholme, Nealhouse Ortonrigg, Woodhouses and Pow. It consists of 178 dwellings with half of these being in Great Orton. The total population size is 320.

Orton has the following facilities:

- Mobile Library
- Village Hall
- Public House
- St Giles` Church
- Post Office / Stores
- Great Orton Primary School
- Play Area
- Parish Magazine
- Playgroup
- Nursery
- Notice Boards
- Telephone Kiosk
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Mobile Police Station

We also have farms and small businesses, some of which set up as a means of diversification after the foot and mouth outbreak of 2001.

Like many rural communities we lack health facilities such as a doctor or dentist. Parishioners have to travel for these services. The limited transport links make this extremely difficult – the city of Carlisle is 6 miles away, Wigton is 7 miles and Dalston is 5.3 miles.



The Orton Parish Plan

Orton

Once the committee was appointed, the Parish Plan Process began in April 2004 with a community consultation. Every household in the parish received a list of subject areas with their parish magazine. People used this to let us know what they felt were important e.g. the school, fly tipping etc. The results were used to form the basis of a questionnaire.

Work began on the questionnaire in May 2004 and by June 2004 the first draft was ready, eventually the finished survey was distributed in September 2004. We notified people through the parish magazine that the survey was to be given out and why it was important that they filled it in.

The surveys were delivered and collected in by hand for a more personal approach. The response was fantastic with three quarters of the surveys being returned completed. As the Parish Council had already had a meeting with the young people it was decided to use the views put forward here as a working example of what they wanted from the parish.

An Open Day was held on June 18th 2005 when the results of the survey had been analysed and a draft report, the basis of the plan written. At the Open Day parishioners were shown what had been achieved so far and how the Parish Plan will help them in the future. People also had another chance to put forward any further comments.

Summary of Results

From the initial Community Consultation we identified the main areas of concern for people living in the Parish. These made up the sections in the survey.

- ENVIRONMENT
- YOUNG PEOPLE
- PUBLIC HIGHWAYS
- SCHOOL
- CONSERVATION AND
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- CRIME AND POLICING
- TRANSPORT
- HEALTHCARE
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- PARISH COUNCIL
- PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

In this section three issues were highlighted; Fly tipping, recycling and litter.

Fly tipping is a national problem and the Parish Council shares the concern of parishioners. Nearly everybody who responded said that they would support an initiative to reduce / eliminate the problem. Some of the suggestions made in the survey have already been tried / implemented by the Parish Council, however other useful comments were made. Most people felt that more signs advertising official rubbish disposal sites were needed in the nearby towns and in the countryside warning people of the penalties.

Recycling: the majority of people who answered this question felt that the existing facilities at the Wellington Inn are adequate. However many feel that further facilities are needed such as the recycling of plastic and kerbside collections. The recycling facilities used to be at the village hall, however this was not a suitable location for the vehicle collecting the rubbish.

Litter is no less important as an issue and many people said that they would like to see more litter bins in the parish. Extra bins have been provided at various locations in the past. Unfortunately, they attracted an unmanageable amount of fly tipping.

The Parish Council will continue to work with the City Council to achieve what is wanted, more signs to deter fly tipping, further recycling facilities and an increased number of litter bins.



Young People

Orton

The issue raised in this section was that there are not enough facilities for people over thirteen years of age as the newly refurbished play area caters for youngsters up to the age of 13.

The Parish Council has made great efforts to provide for the young people. The play area has been greatly improved and a youth shelter is being built to plans made by the young parishioners at a meeting with them. The Parish Council can and has in the past

achieved funding for a Youth Club and qualified leader. Unfortunately, there has never been a sufficient number of parents / volunteers willing to help. Some names were put forward as a result of the survey but further names are needed.

The Parish Council will achieve funding and provide a youth leader if people are willing to help in order to make the Youth Club a reality again.



Public Highways

In this section people were invited to make us aware of which areas of highway within the Parish are prone to flooding and have drainage problems as well as where the roads are felt to be particularly dangerous and which warning, advisory or restriction signs are in need of repair. Comments about lighting were also asked for.

Little Orton, Ortonrigg and Woodhouses are particular problem areas when it rains a lot although water stands on the road at various other places

Flooding and drainage is a long-standing problem that is continually being addressed. It is a highways responsibility so any problem brought to the Parish Council is reported and receives attention when necessary.

The warning, advisory and restriction signs are the responsibility of the highways authority. Direction signposts were mentioned the most in this section as they are either missing or in need of restoration. There were also signs that are obscured by vegetation. Signage in the vicinity of the school in Great Orton is requested, this is something that is already being worked on.

The Parish Council has to apply for lighting and parishioners in the proposed area have to be consulted. Gaining new lighting can be a lengthy process; we have a permanent request with the City Council.

School

The Parish of Orton has one primary school in the main settlement of Great Orton, for secondary education children must travel to either Wigton or Dalston. It is a small school with a nursery attached. It is an important asset to us and one that the whole parish wishes to keep.

Some who filled in the survey said that they would like to see the school offer “wrap-

around-care” and names were put forward to assist with these, however there needs to be sufficient numbers at the clubs for them to be of maximum benefit.

The Parish Council is very supportive of the school and a member is representative on the school governors.

Conservation and Future Development

Orton

This was a large section covering many topics. As mentioned at the beginning of the report, the parish of Orton is made up of a main village and smaller hamlets. The surrounding countryside and size of settlements make it an appealing place to live.

Most of the people who responded to this question said that they would not like to see the population of the parish or the numbers of houses increase unless it was to be affordable housing for young local people who wished to stay in the parish. It was felt that a steady increase would support the school, hall, post office and public house.

A need for extra parking not just for amenities but also existing houses was also identified.

More information on how to go about applying for affordable housing is needed. What the Parish Council does not want to see are young people who have lived in Orton all their lives by forced to move out of the parish taking valuable skills with them.

At the Community Consultation it was made clear in the comments book that parishioners would like to see old redundant farm buildings developed or knocked down and the site used for housing rather than more of the countryside being concreted over.



Crime & Policing

The Parish is in the Caldew rural police area, which stretches from Burgh by Sands through Orton and on to Dalston, Durdar and Wreay. Based at Brampton police station the team consists of seven patrol officers, one sergeant and one community officer.

This section showed that since living in the parish, half of the people who filled in the survey had been a victim of crime. Most who answered felt that the parish is not adequately policed.

Many who live in the parish are subjected to anti-social behaviour such as joyriding, and have to put up with fly tipping and burnt out cars. These are problems which it is felt are brought out to us from the town. Church windows have already been damaged and the school wall vandalised.

It is hoped that many of these problems will cease once teenagers have somewhere to go e.g. the youth shelter or youth club. The local police support both of these ventures.

Transport

The responses to the questions in this section highlighted that at the moment, transport links are very poor. We have a daily bus service from Great Orton but it does not run at a time suitable for getting to work. Places like Little Orton have no bus service at all.

The Rural Wheels voluntary car service is available but apart from this it is very difficult

to get to important services or a supermarket, as all of these are 5, 6 or 7 miles away.

The Parish Council will endeavour to find out what exactly is needed and then how to go about improving the transport links within the parish.

Healthcare

Orton

Linked to transport is healthcare, because those in the parish who have adequate transport have access to healthcare whenever they need it. Older and disabled members of our community do not have adequate

transport and therefore cannot easily access necessary healthcare.

This section was mainly relevant to the older parishioners and links into the following section.

Elderly

Of those who answered this question, three quarters feel that the services in the parish for elderly people are not adequate. Some social services currently exist but many people are not aware of how to go about getting the services and they do not

know how to get benefits that are available to them.

Parishioners would like to see a monthly surgery and a chiropody clinic, possibly in the village hall.

Community Facilities

The results to this section showed that 75% of the people who completed the survey feel the parish has adequate community facilities and attend most of the activities in the village hall. The hall and the church are important assets to the Parish and help is always needed to manage them in order to ensure their survival for future generations.

The results also showed that nearly everybody uses the parish magazine produced by the Barony of Burgh to gain information about

what is happening in the parish.

The Post Office and Stores in Great Orton are also greatly supported. The mobile police station, mobile library and neighbourhood watch are all other examples of facilities used

Although there is obvious support for community facilities it is clear that some parishioners are not fully aware of what goes on. One aim of the Parish Plan is to make this information more available.

In the comments put forward at the Community Consultation it is clear that some parishioners feel that they could be more informed about Parish Council activities, at the moment an annual report detailing what the Parish Council has been doing is sent to every household in the parish and regular articles are put in the parish magazine.

All meetings are open to the Public and parishioners are advised as appropriate on major issues before action is taken. There are major issues such as the foot and mouth outbreak when DEFRA made the rules and implemented them.





The parish has a number of footpaths and bridleways running through it. From the consultation process we can see a high number of people use them and on the whole they are found to be clear and accessible. However it was also found that

there is not enough information available on the footpaths and bridleways in our area.

The Parish Council shall seek to make such information more widely available.

What happens next?

Although we are nearly at the end of the report, we are in fact only at the beginning of the Parish Plan. As stated on the front, this plan is a design for the next five years. There is still much to be done!!!

The action plan at the end of this document is going to be adopted by the Parish council as policy and the recommendations made

will be implemented and reviewed on a regular basis.

YOU can be part of this – you can still be involved and influence the plan and the future of the parish by getting involved in things like the youth club or anything else that you are particularly interested in.

Acknowledgements

Orton

The Parish Council and the Parish Plan committee would like to thank the following bodies that have helped and supported us in this process:

- The Countryside Agency
- Voluntary Action Cumbria
- Carlisle City Council
- Cumbria County Council

The Parish Council instigated the Parish Plan; it was implemented by a group of volunteers who made up the Steering Committee but it happened and was a success thanks to those parishioners who completed the survey and contributed with comments and ideas.

We can now
make our
parish what we
want it to be.

SECTION	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	PRIORITY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	LEAD GROUP
ENVIRONMENT	Prevention of Fly tipping	High	Highways Authority Cumbria County Council Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish council
YOUNG PEOPLE	Provision of youth shelter	High	Cumbria Police Orton Parish Council Cumbria County Council	2005	Parish council
	Set up youth club	High	Cumbria County Council	Ongoing	
PUBLIC HIGHWAYS	Report to Highways	High	Highways Authority Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish council
SCHOOL	Support to be Given towards Increasing Numbers	Medium	School Governors Other Partners Decided as action develops	Ongoing	Parish Council
CONSERVATION & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	Identify Housing Needs in The parish	Medium	Cumbria County Council Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Council
CRIME & POLICING	Greater police presence needs to be seen	Medium	Cumbria Police Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	Ongoing	Parish Council
TRANSPORT	Identify ways to increase Transport links	Medium	Cumbria County Council Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish council
HEALTHCARE	More information on services Available needed	Medium	Age Concern Cumbria County Council Carlisle Council for Voluntary Services	Ongoing	Parish Council
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Parishioners need to be more informed	Medium	Parish Magazine Orton Parish Council School Governors Great Orton Village Hall Committee	Ongoing	Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL	Parishioners need to be more informed	Low	Parish magazine Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish council
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS	Parisioners need to be more informed	Low	Carlisle City Council East Cumbria Countryside Project Orton Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Council

Notes

Orton

